



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 115

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5350

House of Representatives, March 22, 2016

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER
SUPPLY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-38 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 [Wherever the fluoride content of public water supplies serving] A
4 water company, as defined in section 25-32a, that serves twenty
5 thousand or more persons [supplies less than eight-tenths of a
6 milligram per liter of fluoride, the person, firm, corporation or
7 municipality having jurisdiction over the supply] shall add a measured
8 amount of fluoride to the water supply so as to maintain a fluoride
9 content [of between eight-tenths of a milligram per liter and one and
10 two-tenths milligrams per liter] that is not more than one-tenth of a
11 milligram per liter different than the United States Department of
12 Health and Human Services' most recent recommendation for optimal
13 fluoride levels in drinking water to prevent tooth decay.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	19a-38
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PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**SUMMARY:**

This bill, which reduces the mandated fluoride content of the public water supply to reflect the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' most recent recommendation for optimal fluoride levels in drinking water, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state, or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5350*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill reduces the mandated fluoride content of the public water supply. Specifically, it requires water companies that serve at least 20,000 people to add a measured amount of fluoride to the water supply to maintain a fluoride content that is no more than 0.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) different from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) most recent recommendation for optimal fluoride levels in drinking water to prevent tooth decay (currently 0.7 mg/L). Current law requires that the public water supply's fluoride content be between 0.8 and 1.2 mg/L.

A "water company" is an individual, municipality, or other entity that owns, maintains, operates, manages, controls, or employs any pond, lake, reservoir, well, stream, or distribution plant or system that supplies water to two or more consumers (i.e., service connections) or at least 25 people, on a regular basis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

BACKGROUND***HHS Recommendation for Optimal Fluoride Levels***

In 1962, the U.S. Public Health Service recommended that fluoride concentrations in drinking water be 0.7 to 1.2 mg/L, depending on the area's ambient air temperature (areas with higher average temperatures would require less fluoride). In 2011, HHS proposed new guidance recommending that community water systems adjust their fluoride levels to 0.7 mg/L. The recommendation was finalized in 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/07/2016)